

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A system for providing secure communication of a voice call placed across a  
2     PSTN as a data call, wherein secure is understood to refer to the use of encryption to provide  
3     privacy and security, a voice call is understood to refer to a call using a bearer service that is  
4     circuit mode, with speech or 3.1 kHz audio information transfer capability, and user information  
5     layer 1 protocol G.711 mu-law or A-law, and a data call is understood to refer to a call using a  
6     bearer service that is circuit mode, with either 64Kbps information transfer rate or 64Kbps  
7     information transfer rate adapted to 56Kbps, that uses unrestricted or restricted digital  
8     information transfer capability, said system comprising:  
9           a security policy including rules defining a call to be conducted in a secure mode;  
10          a VPSTN for implementing said rules in said security policy and initiating encryption of  
11     the call using a secure mode selected from a predetermined set of secure modes and placing the  
12     call across the PSTN;  
13          said VPSTN including an in-line device for intercepting, identifying, modifying, and  
14     forwarding the setup message of the call identified by said security policy to be conducted in a  
15     secure mode;  
16          said identification of the call setup message including determining whether the call setup  
17     message includes a request for bearer capability to support a voice call;

18           said modification of the call setup message including changing the call setup message  
19   from a request for bearer capability to support a voice call to a call setup message with a request  
20   for bearer capability to support a data call;  
21           said forwarding of the call setup message including passing the call setup message on  
22   toward the intended destination.

1           2.     The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said VPSTN also provides for initiating  
2   an encryption of the voice call using another secure mode selected from said predetermined set of  
3   secure modes and placing another data call should a prior attempt to place the call across the  
4   PSTN as a data call fail.

1           3.     The system as defined in Claim 2 wherein said VPSTN also provides for initiation  
2   of encryption of the voice call in a voice secure mode should all attempts at placing the call  
3   across the PSTN as a data call fail.